

White House Hotel
232 East Wharf Street
Hermann
Gasconade County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-257

HABS
MO,
37-HERM
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park System
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
MO,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WHITE HOUSE HOTEL

HABS No. MO-257

Location: 232 East Wharf Street, Hermann, Gasconade County, Missouri.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Plummer, 232 East Wharf Street, Hermann, Missouri.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Plummer.

Significance: The White House Hotel, built for Francis Rippstein in 1868/69, is the only one of Hermann's early hotels to remain essentially in its original condition. The three-and-a-half story brick hotel building resembles several other large commercial and residential buildings constructed in Hermann in the late 1860s, and reflects a provincial interpretation of early nineteenth century styles.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1868/69. This date is confirmed by City Tax Records, which show a substantial increase in assessed valuation between 1868 and 1869.
2. Architect: Not Known.
3. Original and subsequent Owners: The White House Hotel is built on lot 19 East Wharf Street, Hermann, Missouri. The following references to the title of this lot are recorded in the Gasconade County, Missouri Deed Books.

1864 Warranty Deed Mary Bottermann to Francis Rippstein
Date signed: March 4, 1864
Date filed: April 21, 1864
Date recorded: June 13, 1864
Book P Page 383
Consideration: \$1,000.00

1891 Lease F. Rippstein Heirs, Wilhelmine Leisner
 (widow of F. Rippstein) and August C. her
 husband, Eugene F. Rippstein and Mathilda
 his wife, Emma Slocumb and Walter her
 husband to Margretha Rodius
Date signed: June 29, 1891
Date filed: July 16, 1891
Book 15 Page 481
Consideration: \$600.00/year

1906	Warranty Deed	Wilhelmine Leisner, Eugene F. Rippstein and Frances his wife, Emma Slocumb and Walter her husband to Louis Koch and Paula his wife Date signed: December 6, 1906 Date filed: December 13, 1906 Book 30 Page 526 Consideration: \$5,000.00
1912	Lease	Louis Koch to Rosa Reinley Date signed: August 2, 1912 Date filed: January 3, 1914 Book 42 Pages 330 and 331 Consideration: \$65.00/month
1913	Warranty Deed	Louis Koch to J. G. Broyles Date signed: October 18, 1913 Date filed: January 2, 1914 Book 44 Page 116 Consideration: \$5,000.00
1913	Warranty Deed	J. G. Broyles to A. G. Poppenhouse Date signed: December 19, 1913 Date filed: March 3, 1914 Book 42 Page 381 Consideration: \$11,000.00
1914	Warranty Deed	A. G. Poppenhouse and Nora his wife to Philip Cain Date signed: April 7, 1914 Date filed: May 14, 1914 Book 42 Page 456 Consideration: \$12,000.00
1915	Bankruptcy Sale	Philip Cain to A. J. Bond Date signed: September 25, 1915 Date filed: October 14, 1915 Book 45 Pages 155 and 156 Consideration: \$5,500.00
1915	Warranty Deed	A. J. Bond and wife to F. L. Blaske Date signed: October 9, 1915 Date filed: October 19, 1915 Book 45 Page 157 Consideration: \$12,000.00
1916	Warranty Deed	F. L. Blaske to William W. Hull Date signed: December 6, 1916 Date filed: December 18, 1916 Book 47 Page 150 Consideration: \$13,000.00

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- 1919 Warranty Deed William W. Hull and Miranda his wife to
H. F. Meyer
Date signed: December 6, 1919
Date filed: December 18, 1919
Book 50 Page 122
Consideration: \$8,000.00
- 1922 Warranty Deed H. F. Meyer and Louise his wife to C. A.
Maxeiner and Louise his wife
Date signed: April 11, 1922
Date filed: April 11, 1922
Book 54 Page 180
Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable
considerations
- 1924 Warranty Deed C. A. Maxeiner and wife to Ernest J.
Geiger
Date signed: August 25, 1924
Date filed: September 3, 1924
Book 56 Page 100
Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable
considerations
- 1926 Warranty Deed Emma Geiger, Administratrix of the estate
of Ernest J. Geiger to George R. Forder-
hase
Date signed: February 23, 1926
Date filed: April 14, 1926
Book 55 Page 507
Consideration: \$1,842.25
- 1926 Warranty Deed George R. Forderhase and wife to W. J.
Swantner
Date signed: October 7, 1926
Date filed: October 9, 1926
Book 56 Page 544
Consideration: \$1.00 and exchange of
property
- 1927 Warranty Deed W. J. Swantner and wife to Edgar Becker
and wife
Date signed: July 29, 1927
Date filed: August 13, 1927
Book 59 Page 94
Consideration:
- 1928 Quit-Claim Deed Edgar Becker and wife to Louis Begemann
Date signed: February 4, 1928
Date filed: February 8, 1928
Book 57 Page 187

1930	Warranty Deed	Louis Begemann, Trustee to L. J. Lohse Date signed: February 8, 1930 Date filed: February 11, 1930 Book 57 Page 521 Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations
1931	Warranty Deed	L. J. Lohse to White House Hotel Company Date signed: April 21, 1931 Date filed: July 14, 1931 Book 62 Page 249 Consideration: \$6,000.00
1935	Warranty Deed	White House Hotel Company to Josephine K. Green Date signed: October 21, 1935 Date filed: October 30, 1935 Book 67 Page 170 Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations
1939	Warranty Deed	G. H. Lohse and Josephine K. Green (Mrs. G. H. Lohse) to Mrs. Selma Klenk Date signed: August 7, 1939 Date filed: August 17, 1939 Book 70 Page 47 Consideration: \$10.00
1939	Warranty Deed	Mrs. Selma Klenk and husband to Otto G. Gula Date signed: October 11, 1939 Date filed: October 14, 1939 Book 70 Page 88 Consideration: \$1.00 amd other valuable considerations
1942	Warranty Deed	Otto G. Gula to Selma C. Klenk Date signed: January 29, 1942 Date filed: July 10, 1958 Book 97 Page 74 Consideration: \$2,000.00
1967	Warranty Deed	Frank Klenk and Jeanne his wife and Waldo Lionberger, Trustees of Selma Klenk estate to Faye G. Lewis Date signed: August 1, 1967 Date filed: August 2, 1967 Book 113 Page 219 Consideration: \$10.00 and other valuable considerations

1972 Warranty Deed Faye G. Lewis and E. D. Lewis her husband to Robert D. Plummer and Judith L. Plummer his wife
Date signed: September 28, 1972
Date filed: September 28, 1972
Book 132 Page 794
Consideration: \$10.00 and other valuable considerations

4. Original plans: No original plans of the White House Hotel have been located. It is included in a bird's eye view of Hermann from the Missouri River by A. Rutgers 1869, another view of the town from the Missouri River by Edward Robyn 1877, and a photograph of the town taken from the County Courthouse between 1869 and 1877. The hotel is also included in the Sanborn Perris Insurance Maps of 1892, 1898, 1908, and 1917. The hotel has been altered very little.
5. Alterations and Additions: Originally, the main section of the hotel was topped by a cupola. This cupola appears in both the 1869 Rutgers and the 1877 Robyn views of Hermann. Sometime after 1877, it was removed and replaced with a widow's walk with flag pole.

Bent seam sheet metal covers the original wooden shingle roofing.

Between 1898 and 1908, steam heat and electric lights were installed.

Plumbing was added between 1908 and 1917.

The entrance to the hotel lobby was altered c. 1920. A poured concrete platform with stairs on the east side curving around to the front replaced the original limestone stairs.

In the 1920s, the saloon was made into an ice cream parlor. It is now a souvenir and antique shop.

A ventilation system has been added. Its installation required alterations on each floor of the hotel.

The ceiling of the hotel lobby has been covered with sheet rock.

In the kitchen, the present owners have suspended a stamped sheet metal ceiling to cover the exposed plumbing (1970-75). They have also installed new linoleum in this area.

The door at the rear of the wing once opened onto a wrought iron balcony. Some of the original shutters are missing.

B. Historical Context:

Among the hotel's many distinguished guests was William Jennings Bryan. He is said to have remarked that only the people of Hermann had managed to get him into the White House.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Old views: 1869 Bird's eye view of Hermann from the Missouri River, A. Rutgers, Pommer-Gentner House, 108 Market Street, Hermann, Missouri (owned by the Brush and Palette Club, 411 Market Street, Hermann, Missouri).

1877 view of Hermann from the Missouri River, Edward Robyn, Missouri Historical Society, Jefferson Building, St. Louis 12, Missouri.

1869-77 panoramic photograph of Hermann taken from the County Courthouse, Hermann Museum, Old German School House, East Fourth and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri.

2. Primary and unpublished sources: County Tax Records, stored in a vault on the second floor, Gasconade County Courthouse, East First Street between Market and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri (key in care of County Clerk).

Deeds, Office of the County Recorder, Gasconade County Courthouse, East First Street between Market and Schiller Streets, Hermann, Missouri.

Sanborn Perris Insurance Maps, 1892, 1898, 1908, and 1917, Third floor east, Elmer Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia Missouri.

3. Secondary published sources: Hesse, Anna, Centenarians of Brick, Wood, and Stone, Hermann, Missouri, (A. Hesse, 1969).

Prepared by: Nanette M. Linderer
Project Historian
Summer 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Hermann, Missouri, project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, with cooperation of Historic Hermann, Incorporated. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1975 by Clayton B. Fraser (HABS Washington Office), Project Supervisor; Nanette M. Linderer (University of Missouri at Columbia), Project Historian; and Student Architects Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University), Jean C. Parker (Columbia University), and Donnie G. Seale (University of Florida). The photographs were taken in April and May 1983, by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe.